

**Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently amended) A ~~rainscreen~~ rain-screen apparatus including:  
a substantially rigid air barrier adapted for attachment to a building structure;  
a ~~rainscreen~~ rain-screen panel adapted for attachment over the air barrier;  
a spacing member adapted to provide a clearance space between the air barrier  
and the ~~rainscreen~~ rain-screen panel; and  
sealing means adapted to provide substantial pressure equalisation within the clearance  
space.
2. (Currently amended) A ~~rainscreen~~ The rain-screen apparatus according to claim  
1 including an air vent to atmosphere from said pressure equalised space to allow air pressure  
within said space to equalise with air pressure externally of said space.
3. (Currently amended) A ~~rainscreen~~ The rain-screen apparatus according to claim  
1 wherein said apparatus is suitable for use on building frames with studs placed at a  
predetermined interval such that said apparatus resists water ingress under predetermined wind  
pressure.
4. (Currently amended) A ~~rainscreen~~ The rain-screen apparatus according to claim  
3 wherein said studs are placed at between approximately 400 and 610 mm centre to centre and  
said predetermined wind pressure is greater than approximately 1 kPa and less than  
approximately 4.5 kPa.
5. (Currently amended) A ~~rainscreen~~ The rain-screen apparatus according to claim  
1 wherein said rigid air barrier is comprised of any polymeric or cellulosic or cementitious  
material suitably reinforced to provide the degree of rigidity required to resist water ingress when  
incorporated into said ~~rainscreen~~ rain-screen apparatus and exposed to a predetermined wind  
pressure according to a standardized wind test.
6. (Currently amended) A ~~rainscreen~~ The rain-screen apparatus according to claim  
1 wherein said rigid air barrier is in the form of a panel.

7. (Currently amended) ~~A rainscreen~~ The rain-screen apparatus according to claim 6 wherein said air barrier panel is between approximately 2-15mm thick.

8. (Currently amended) ~~A rainscreen~~ The rain-screen apparatus according to claim 6 wherein said air barrier panel is between 5-7mm thick.

9. (Currently amended) ~~A rainscreen~~ The rain-screen apparatus according to claim 6 wherein said air barrier panel includes fibre cement, oriented strandboard strand-board, plywood, metal, expanded polymeric foam or a combination of these.

10. (Currently amended) ~~A rainscreen~~ The rain-screen apparatus according to claim 6 wherein said air barrier panel is substantially formed from fibre cement.

11. (Currently amended) ~~A rainscreen~~ The rain-screen apparatus according to claim 6 wherein said panel includes a sheet of polymeric or substantially water repellent cellulosic material attached to the exterior surface of the panel so as substantially to prevent water from passing therethrough.

12. (Currently amended) ~~A rainscreen~~ The rain-screen apparatus according to claim 6 wherein said air barrier panel has at least the exterior side treated with a material that repels water.

13. (Currently amended) ~~A rainscreen~~ The rain-screen apparatus according to claim 6 wherein said air barrier panel includes a water repellent material.

14. (Currently amended) ~~A rainscreen~~ The rain-screen apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said rigid air barrier is in the form of at least one thin sheet comprising a polymeric or substantially water repellent cellulosic material, said sheet having a relatively rigid reinforcing means attached thereto.

15. (Currently amended) ~~A rainscreen~~ The rain-screen apparatus according to claim 14 wherein said sheet includes a polyolefin material having a relatively rigid reinforcing means including a mesh of fibreglass, metal or polymeric material laminated to at least one surface of said sheet.

16. (Currently amended) ~~A rainscreen~~ The rain-screen apparatus according to claim 14 wherein said sheet includes a polyolefin material having a relatively rigid reinforcing means including a series of battens ~~or the like~~ laminated to at least one surface of said sheet.

17. (Currently amended) A ~~rainscreen~~ The rain-screen apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said ~~rainscreen~~ rain-screen panel includes a cementitous material, oriented ~~strandboard~~ strand-board, plywood, metal, polymeric foam or a combination of these.

18. (Currently amended) A ~~rainscreen~~ The rain-screen apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said ~~rainscreen~~ rain-screen panel is between approximately 2-11mm thick.

19. (Currently amended) A ~~rainscreen~~ The rain-screen apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said ~~rainscreen~~ rain-screen panel is between approximately 7-11mm thick.

20. (Currently amended) A ~~rainscreen~~ The rain-screen apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said ~~rainscreen~~ rain-screen panel is around 9mm thick.

21. (Currently amended) A ~~rainscreen~~ The rain-screen apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said ~~rainscreen~~ rain-screen panel is substantially formed from fibre cement.

22. (Currently amended) A ~~rainscreen~~ The rain-screen apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said ~~rainscreen~~ rain-screen panel is formed from an exterior cladding material.

23. (Currently amended) A rain-screen air barrier joint seal for sealing a joint between at least two adjacent rigid air barrier of the ~~rainscreen~~ rain-screen apparatus according to claim 1, said seal including a sealing strip of a substantially resilient material having a first surface and a second surface opposite to said first surface, said first surface being adapted to contact said rigid air barriers, and at least one batten provided in use over said second surface of the seal strip, said batten being in contact with the second surface so as to maintain said first surface of the strip in contact with the region of said air barrier adjacent to said joint.

24. (Currently amended) A ~~rainscreen~~ The rain-screen air barrier joint seal according to claim 23 wherein said first surface has an adhesive provided thereon.

25. (Currently amended) A ~~rainscreen~~ The rain-screen air barrier joint seal according to claim 23 wherein said second surface has an adhesive provided thereon.

26. (Currently amended) A rain-screen flashing including a first edge portion adapted to be located on or adjacent to a lower edge of said air barrier of said ~~rainscreen~~ rain-screen apparatus according to claim 1, a second edge portion adapted to be located on or adjacent to an upper region of said ~~rainscreen~~ rain-screen panel provided below said air barrier, and a

central portion which is contiguous with said first and second edge portions and is provided at a substantially obtuse angle to said first and second edge portions.

27. (Currently amended) ~~A rainscreen~~ The rain-screen flashing according to claim 26 wherein said central portion slopes downwardly to allow water to drain over said central portion and exterior to said ~~rainscreen~~ rain-screen panel.

28. (Currently amended) A rain-screen vent for the ~~rainscreen~~ rain-screen apparatus according to claim 1 having a rigid air barrier and a ~~rainscreen~~ rain-screen panel and a space therebetween, said vent including a first wall adapted for location on or adjacent to said air barrier, a second wall adapted to be located on or adjacent to an internal surface of said ~~rainscreen~~ rain-screen panel, and a central portion connected between said first and second walls, said central portion having one or more apertures therein allowing liquid to drain from said space and also allowing ingress of air into said space.

29. (Currently amended) A rain-screen seal construction including a batten for location on an air barrier of ~~rainscreen~~ rain-screen apparatus according to claim 1, a sealing member having a base and at least two lips projecting from said base, said lips being spaced from each other, one lip being adapted to make a substantially sealing contact with a rear surface of a first ~~rainscreen~~ rain-screen panel, and the second lip being adapted to make a substantially sealing contact with the rear surface of a second ~~rainscreen~~ rain-screen panel, said second panel being located adjacent to the first panel.

30. (Currently amended) A method of constructing a ~~rainscreen~~ rain-screen apparatus according to ~~any one of~~ claim 1, the method including the steps of:

attaching said rigid air barrier to an external side of building framing;  
attaching one or more battens over an exterior surface of said rigid air barrier; and  
attaching said ~~rainscreen~~ rain-screen panel over at least one of said battens.

31. (Currently amended) ~~A method~~ The method of constructing a ~~rainscreen~~ rain-screen apparatus according to claim 30 wherein said rigid air barrier is in the form of a panel.

32. (Currently amended) ~~A method~~ The method of constructing a ~~rainscreen~~ rain-screen apparatus according to claim 31 wherein said air barrier panel is between approximately 2-15mm thick.

33. (Currently amended) ~~A method~~ The method of constructing a rainscreen rain-screen apparatus according to claim 31 wherein said air barrier panel is between approximately 5-7mm thick.

34. (Currently amended) ~~A method~~ The method of constructing a rainscreen rain-screen apparatus according to claim 31 wherein said air barrier panel includes fibre cement, oriented strandboard strand-board, plywood, metal, expanded polymeric foam or a combination of these.

35. (Currently amended) ~~A method~~ The method of constructing a rainscreen rain-screen apparatus according to claim 31 wherein said air barrier panel is substantially formed from fibre cement.

36. (Currently amended) ~~A method~~ The method of constructing the rainscreen rain-screen apparatus according to claim 30 wherein said rainscreen rain-screen panel includes a cementitious material, oriented strandboard strand-board, plywood, metal, polymeric foam or a combination of these.

37. (Currently amended) ~~A method~~ The method of constructing a rainscreen rain-screen apparatus according to claim 30 wherein said rainscreen rain-screen panel is between approximately 2-11mm thick.

38. (Currently amended) ~~A method~~ The method of constructing a rainscreen rain-screen apparatus according to claim 30 wherein said rainscreen rain-screen panel is between approximately 7-11mm thick.

39. (Currently amended) ~~A method~~ The method of constructing a rainscreen rain-screen apparatus according to claim 30 wherein said rainscreen rain-screen panel is substantially 9mm thick.

40. (Currently amended) ~~A method~~ The method of constructing a rainscreen rain-screen apparatus according to claim 30 wherein said rainscreen rain-screen panel is substantially formed from fibre cement.

41. (Currently amended) A method for constructing a rainscreen rain-screen apparatus according to claim 1 including the steps of:

providing said rigid air barrier;

coating said air barrier with a water resistant material,  
attaching one or more battens over an exterior surface of said air barrier;  
fixing said rainscreen rain-screen panel over said battens such that said rainscreen rain-screen panel is spaced from said air barrier; and  
coating the exterior surface of said rainscreen rain-screen panel with a substantially water resistant material.

42. (Currently amended) ~~A method~~ The method for constructing a rainscreen rain-screen apparatus according to claim 41 wherein one or both of said rigid air barrier or said rainscreen rain-screen panel is substantially formed from fibre reinforced cement.